

"CIVILIZATION BEGINS AND ENDS WITH THE PLOW"

THINGS TO PLAN TO THROUGHOUT COMING YEAR

The Farmers' Day at the test farm at Swannanoa on May 17, 1928.

- Poultry loading depot with facilities for grading eggs.
- An annual poultry show.
- Monthly livestock sales.
- Farmers' own line of delivery trucks.
- Purebred sires and seeds.
- Guernsey cattle association.
- A semi-annual seed exchange day.
- A Harvest Carnival one day of the bread and butter show.

Just About the Farm COVER CROPS

Corn has blown down so badly in some places that it is practically out of the question to think of sowing winter cover crops in the corn at this time. The only thing to do is to get all the other land sowed and just as soon as the corn has turned a good rich yellow, cut it and shock it in rows in the field and then sow the corn land after the corn is cut.

The farmer that sows his land to some winter crop has already gone \$10.00 towards his fertilizer bill next year, paying for it I mean.

It does not matter if you are going to cultivate the land in a tillable crop next spring. Just plow the winter cover crop after you have grazed it down and give the livestock a good lot of early green feed.

Then again its the same old story, soil improvement. There is no way of getting around the fact that to get profitable returns, the soil must be kept up to a high state of fertility.

Its alright to say, "I know what is good for my place" and all that sort of thing, but there are fundamental principles that have to be followed if the poor house.

WILD ONIONS

Now is the time to begin real eradication work on wild onions if you have any. There are several places in the county where they are getting a right smart of a hold. The object of the first effort is to destroy the soft-shelled bulbs before they have advanced far enough to produce new bulbs. The best time is when the food in the bulb has been transferred to the growing plant and before the new plant has grown enough so that it forms new bulbs. This condition exists during a fairly long period when the new plants are about ten or twelve inches high. This is any time from the first of October to the end of December. When this stage is reached the land should be plowed deeply so as to completely turn under the whole of the onion plant. If the plowing is put off till the spring the new bulbs have formed and will be able to grow. If all the tops are not put under the ground they will keep on growing.

The following spring a highly cultivated crop should be planted on the land. It will be best to put in a cover crop on the land and turn this under in the spring just before planting. The spring and early work should be done so that all the plants that come up from the hard bulbs that go through the winter and come up in the spring will be killed before they get started.

By following the above practice there will be no wild onions left after two years. Except of course in the fence corners and along the ditch banks. And that is another problem. Right there is where a few sheep will come to advantage and its the only way that I know of to handle the situation. But sheep will eat off the onions early in the spring before there is any other green feed. So that is another argument in favor of a few sheep on the farms of Macon county.

HOGS

September the 12 has been set for the date on which our first fall fat hog sale will be held. Those that will have hogs for sale on that date should let the county agent know as soon as possible so that we may set another date if this one is a little early—as it may be.

Number one hogs are bringing 13 cents per pound on foot in Chicago now and it will pay to get ours off as soon as we can.

Please advise county agent if you have any for sale. A commission of two per cent will be charged for handling the sale. This, just by way of telling you before hand that you will be charged this amount. If there is anything over it will be kept in a fund for future use.

Right there is where a board of

KEEP YOUR FARM AND IT WILL KEEP YOU AND YOURS

The farm pages of The Press are edited by the county agent in collaboration with the editor.

agriculture would come in to good advantage. We have tried several times to get such a board established, but each time there has come up something to offset the efforts. Some day we will have it. Never say many things in my time that would not give some where if it was hammered on enough. Who, in your community would make a good man to go on this board?

FARM PLANS FOR 1929

Now is the time to get in most of your heavy thinking on the next year's crop. It is also the time to do most of the heavy work—between now and real winter time.

In our planning lets ever remember that we cannot say "NO," to Nature and get by with it. And the first step in working out Nature's plan is to look to the fertility of our soil. And the best way of doing this at this time of year is to plan—and then act—on getting in cover crops in every available piece of ground that we can.

There is not another group of farmers any where else in the land so free to work their own economic salvation as are our farmers right here in this county.

It isn't that we are lazy or that we dance away our time in the fall of the year, but that we just do not plan out the things that is best suited and the most profitable. We have not learned to plan and we are continually harking back to what might have been or what ought to be or why "they don't."

Acre for acre, barley is just as safe a crop as corn and yields right along with corn in pounds of feed per acre, and barley is a better feed than corn. Then if we miss the barley there is still time to get in the corn crop. We forget that too. Then there is another thing that was not mentioned further back. When we have planted the barley crop we have

Then barley puts soil to work in winter. Moreover, the barley crop comes in at a time when we are sadly in need of feed. Through the above facts have been determined dozens of times, yet somehow we cannot get them.

There are dozens of good farmers right here in this county that know these things, but the big question is, why do we not get action on these things? It takes action, action, action and more action.

SEEDS

On the first Monday in October we are going to have our fall seed day.

This is a day for neighbor to confer with neighbor on the seed question. There will be a large number of samples of fall seeds from the best seed men within buying radius of us so that all may see the seed and get the prices.

At the last seed day a good many people did not let their wants be known at the time they were asked if they wanted to order seed, but came around later. This is no way to get action. Action must be got at the right time. If there are any that wish the county agent to order seed for them, he will do it if they will let their wants be known on the seed day.

The county agent cannot get seeds in small lots hardly any cheaper than one man any where can get them. There is an advantage in ordering seed through your county agent when enough order through him to enable him to get up a wholesale lot.

This year, so far, has been a great year. What next year will be depends on each man's efforts. Now is the time to set the course for those efforts.

Remember that planning right and working to the plans does not simply mean a better feeling for you by having a little money in your pocket. It means many other things.

It means fertile fields that you will be proud of.

It means convenient barns and out-buildings including electric lights and power.

It means you and yours will be able to get more out of life by having better books to read and more time to read them in.

It means that your houses and fences will be in good repair and that you and your family will take a just and deserving pride in your surroundings.

It means the right kinds of schools for your children.

It means the right kind of churches in your neighborhood so that the moral atmosphere will be kept pure.

It means that the best of medical attention may be had just when it is needed and that your children may have the opportunity to grow to their fullest manhood and womanhood. It means more than that. It means that the good lady may have the best of medical care at the critical times that she often goes through and that your babies will start life with an even break. A thing which is so sadly lacking all over this fair land of ours.

Let's think it over, folks, and see where our duty lies and then go to it to win or go down in the effort, so that in after years when the fight is over our friends may, with a clear conscience, put on our tombstones, "He fought and lost, as we will all lose, but in the losing, he gave of all he had, hence we have lost a man."

Every field a green field this winter is the goal.

Macon county, the land of super-farmers that plan and then carry out the plans—maybe.

LYLES HARRIS, County Agent.

ADEQUATE FEED REDUCES LIVESTOCK POISONING

Conservative grazing, which assures an abundant supply of nutritious range forage, is an important factor in reducing losses of livestock from poisonous plants, says the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

At a recent meeting of the Intermountain Livestock Sanitary association Prof. C. E. Fleming, of the University of Nevada, pointed out that a great many of the death losses

the result of overgrazing and depletion of the better forage plants, which forced the livestock to eat plants of inferior value—including those that are poisonous—in sufficient quantity to prove fatal. Doctor Murray, of Salt Lake City, also stated that in his opinion many losses on the winter range were due to malnutrition as a result of livestock having to subsist mainly on inferior range plants and having an inadequate forage supply.

In the drought region of southern Arizona it is extremely important, the Forest Service has found, to graze the range conservatively, since short rainfall may result in the production of a feed supply materially smaller than usual. It was found that by utilizing approximately 80 per cent of the growth of the important palatable plants in the average year and by reserving a part of the grama range, on which the vegetation cures well on the stalk and is excellent winter feed, losses could be reduced from the average for that region of about 10 per cent to about 2 to 3 per cent of the animals grazed. Not only is there a direct saving to the livestock producer from fewer death losses, but the better condition of animals results in a greater production of young and better development with a more satisfactory price. Thus profits have been made from cattle during the recent trying years where conservative grazing has been practiced, although net losses were shown by those outfits in the region which utilized their range forage too closely.

EXTENSION SYSTEM OF RURAL EDUCATION GROWING RAPIDLY

Expansion of the system for rural education maintained through the agency of the co-operative extension services of the federal and state governments is reflected in some degree by the record of appropriations by congress in support of the work. The original Smith-Lever Act, effective July 1, 1914, provided a total of \$480,000, at the rate of \$10,000 for each state. Gradually these appropriations have been increased to \$4,602,935 for the coming year, which, with supplemental appropriations and an appropriation under the new Capper-Ketcham Act makes available more than \$7,000,000 for Federal aid to the extension work.

Explaining these figures recently, C. W. Warburton, director of extension work, United States Department of Agriculture, said that each state and Hawaii now receives \$30,000 annually without requirement that the state match this sum with additional appropriations. The remainder of the fund is divided among the states in proportion to the rural population, and with the added proviso that the state must provide an equal amount of money for extension work in order to qualify for the appropriation. Actually the states, on the average, do much more than match federal funds. For the current year state appropriations were nearly double federal appropriations.

Comparing expenditures for extension work with other activities, Director Warburton noted that the government spent approximately ten times as much in aid of roads. Extension activities cost at the rate of about \$1 for each three persons on farms or about 7 cents per capita for the whole population. This amounts to one-twentieth of the value of farm equipment purchased in 1927, and to about one-fifth of 1 per cent of the value of last year's crops.

RURAL WEATHER LORE IS FREQUENTLY RELIABLE

Intelligent farmers nowadays are not greatly interested in predictions in almanacs or in other long-range fiction, according to Dr. W. J. Humphreys, of the Weather Bureau. They rely on official reports by radio and on their own observations. Scientific forecasting of the weather does not place reliance on many of the old "signs," particularly of those that are supposed to forecast one season from occurrences in the previous season.

But Dr. Humphreys says that many of the sayings in regard to the weather that have been handed down from generation to generation are based on many observations and are often reliable. For example, he says a warning of some value but not highly reliable is embodied in the verse:

A rainbow in the morning
Is the shepherd's warning;
A rainbow at night
Is the shepherd's delight.
"A pretty good guess" is to be found in:
If the sun sets in gray
The next will be a rainy day.

One of the "very best indicators of the weather for the day," Dr. Humphreys says, "is the state of the dew in the morning. It gathers on grass and other exposed objects when they are cool enough to condense it out of the air, just as moisture is condensed out of the air on the side of a pitcher when filled with ice water. Now, the grass and other outdoor things cool considerably only on still, clear nights, the kind that occur during a spell of fine weather and at no other time."

the sky clear, at least during the latter half of the night. And it is pretty certain that if there was neither wind nor clouds during that time, the day will be a good one for all outside work. On the other hand, if there is no dew in the morning it is almost certain that either the sky was clouded of that there was appreciable wind, or both; and both, as a rule, precede a general rainstorm by 6 to 12 or even 24 hours, according to circumstances.

Consequently Dr. Humphreys says there is much reason back of the two proverbs:
When the grass is dry at morning light
Look for rain before the night.
When the dew is on the grass
Rain will never come to pass.

NO SCRUB BULLS IN GASTON COUNTY

Raleigh, N. C.—Gaston county is well on the way to be free of scrub dairy bulls and these are being replaced rapidly, with valuable purebred stock.

"A committee of leading dairymen, supported by the bankers of the county, are behind County Agent L. B. Altman in this wise movement," says John A. Arey, dairy extension specialist at State College. "With some help from the college, Mr. Altman and his committee conducted a drive in the county during the week of July 16. On July 20, a big sale was held. I took two days to haul in the scrub animals consigned and 22 were finally brought to Gastonia where they were sold to a sausage manufacturer from outside of the county for \$6.32 a hundred pounds. On the same day 25 purebred bulls were sold to farmers attending the sale."

But the movement did not end on this day, states Mr. Arey. On August 7, County Agent Altman reported that 12 more purebred animals had been placed and 11 more scrubs had gone to the sausage maker. This makes a total of 37 purebreds placed and 33 scrubs eliminated. Mr. Altman also wrote that he had several pledges for the further replacement of scrubs with blooded animals.

Mr. Arey states that excellent work in this movement was done by local dairymen, who helped to locate all the scrubs in the county. A census was taken by communities and when the final campaign was put on, these dairymen took the lead in encouraging others to dispose of their scrubs and replace them with purebreds. The banks, too, lent substantial aid. The cost incident to hauling in the scrubs was paid by the banks and they gave further support by running large advertisements in the local papers showing the value of having purebred sires in the dairy herd.

The success of the Gaston campaign has attracted the attention of other counties and Mr. Arey states that a similar campaign will begin in Cleveland county at once.

THINGS TO PLAN FOR RIGHT NOW

- That cream check every two weeks.
- That cannery check every time you come to town.
- Fat hog sale in June.
- Bread and Butter Show next fall.
- Encourage the 4-H Clubbers.
- Big Farmers' day next fall.
- Local Curb Market.
- Breed sows so that the pigs will go on the market in March, April, August and September.

Quality Brings the Price

Whenever the dealer and the producer can come to an understanding as to the standard of quality, better prices can be paid for quality products. Clean eggs should call for more money than soiled eggs. Fresh cream ought to bring a much higher price than old sour cream.

That a decided start has been made along this most important line can be gathered from the following clipping taken from the SOUTHERN AGRICULTURIST:

The Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station, in cooperation with creameries, announce a plan whereby cream delivered at intervals of not more than four days will command a premium of extra price.

Cream cans will be tagged, showing the date of the last delivery, so both buyers and producers will know that the cream is being delivered at least once in four days or twice a week. Such cream when free from undesirable odors and flavors, will be known as premium cream, and will bring the producer more money than cream of the same quality but not delivered so often.

The purpose of the plan, which is known as the four-day plan, is to produce a better quality of cream to make better butter, which in turn will sell for a better price.

Farmers are learning that they can get their cream to market in a much better condition by cooling it quickly and keeping it in water as cold as possible until it is shipped. Another point they have learned is to cool each skimming in cold water before adding it to the can of cream being held for shipment.

QUICK ESTIMATE OF CROP PRODUCTION

(C. L. Chambers, Field Agent)
A problem that stands in the way of interesting farmers in estimating crop production and keeping records is a simple method of measuring yields. L. M. Wilkinson, district agent of Louisiana, reports using a quick method of estimating production, which he describes as follows:

"Harvest 21 feet of any average row of any crop; multiply the weight or amount by 10 (21 feet is 1-10 of row acre long) to obtain the weight or amount in the row 1 acre long. The yield per row multiplied by the number of rows per acre (210 feet) gives the yield per acre."

By holding field meetings when result demonstrations are measured, farmers not only study the practices which govern economic production, but are encouraged to return home and contrast their yields with those of the demonstration. The results obtained from the demonstration as well as the results obtained by other farmers afford material for news items and circular letters. Thus farmers outside the demonstration group may be tied up to extension work by seeing their names in print.

More Forest Officials

C. W. Reisley, forest field clerk, has reported for duty at Franklin with the Nantahala National Forest. Mr. Reisley's family, consisting of wife and small daughter, will join him here in the near future.

David S. Findlay and L. M. Cunningham, with the acquisition department of the forestry service, have also reported for duty and are now engaged in estimating a tract of land in Clay county.

In Memoriam

Mrs. Claude Scott, a good woman and faithful member of Bethel Missionary Society, has been called home. We miss her smiling face. She will no more cheer us by her kindly presence here.

The life she lived will remain a blessed memory and we will be helped and encouraged along the way because of it. We mourn the loss of one of our beloved members.

She was a true and sincere mother to her small family. For her, earth's joy and pain is passed in a fairer clime. All suffering and sorrow is ended and she rests from her labors.

MRS. TOM SANDERS.